8.6 Abstract and Collective Nouns: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Open Day at Foxglove Wildlife Park

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Saturday 14th June

A ripple of excitement ran along the queue outside Foxglove Wildlife Park long before the gates opened. Somewhere behind the fence, a troop of monkeys was already shrieking with what sounded like pure delight. Mrs Okafor, the park's head keeper, greeted the waiting crowd with a warm smile and a clipboard full of notes.

The first stop was the reptile house, where a coil of pythons lay motionless beneath a heat lamp. Ravi felt a flicker of nervousness as the guide lifted a corn snake from its glass tank, but curiosity soon won over fear, and he reached out to touch its smooth, dry scales.

Outside again, a herd of zebras grazed calmly beside a pack of wild dogs resting in the shade. Further along, a flock of flamingos stood in the shallow lake, their feathers a startling shade of pink against the water. The keeper explained that patience, not speed, was the secret to training the park's young elephants, and a murmur of admiration passed through the group.

By the end of the visit, exhaustion had replaced excitement, but every visitor agreed that the sense of wonder Foxglove Park created was worth the long walk back to the car park.

1 Which definition below best describes a COLLECTIVE NOUN?

- ☐ A) A noun that names one particular person, place or organisation
- ☐ B) A noun that names an idea, feeling or quality
- ☐ C) A noun that names a group of people, animals or things treated as one unit
- ☐ D) A noun that can only ever be used in the plural form

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2 Identify and correct the two errors in this sentence: 'The audiences nervousness grew as the compere walked onto the stage, but their excitment soon turned to enjoyment.'

(2)

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3 Write two of your own original sentences. Each sentence must contain one collective noun and one abstract noun. Underline the collective noun and circle the abstract noun in each sentence.

(a) Write your first original sentence. **(2)**

(b) Write your second original sentence. **(2)**

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4 Which sentence below contains a grammatical error?

- ☐ A) The choir's harmony filled the hall.
- ☐ B) A gang of thieves was hiding nearby.
- ☐ C) Her kindness surprised everyone who met her.
- ☐ D) The flock of sheep's grazed peacefully in the field.

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5 Use each word from the box once to complete the collective nouns below.

pod	murder	parliament	exaltation	skein	pack

(a) a group of dolphins swimming together **(1)**

(b) a group of crows gathered together **(1)**

(c) a group of owls roosting together **(1)**

(d) a group of larks singing in the sky **(1)**

(e) a group of geese flying together in formation **(1)**

(f) a group of wolves hunting together **(1)**

6 Rewrite each vague description below as a short phrase using the correct collective noun from the box. Use each word once.

shoal	troop	herd

(a) a large group of fish swimming together **(1)**

(b) a group of soldiers marching together **(1)**

(c) a group of cattle grazing in a field **(1)**

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7 Change each adjective below into an abstract noun by adding a suitable suffix (e.g. -ness, -ity, -dom, -ery, -th).

(a) happy **(1)**

(b) curious **(1)**

(c) free **(1)**

(d) brave **(1)**

(e) honest **(1)**

(f) strong **(1)**

8 Explain one effect of using the collective noun 'the group' in 'a murmur of admiration passed through the group', rather than describing each visitor's reaction individually.

(2)

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9 In UK English, a collective noun can take a singular verb when the group acts as one unit, or a plural verb when the members are considered as individuals. Choose the verb that correctly completes each sentence.

(a) The choir ___ rehearsing together as one voice. **(1)**

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

(b) The jury ___ each considering the evidence in their own way. **(1)**

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

(c) The team ___ celebrating as a single unit after the final whistle. **(1)**

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

(d) The committee ___ each responsible for a different part of the report. **(1)**

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

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10 Write a short descriptive paragraph (approximately 60-90 words) about a visit to a busy place of your choice (for example, a market, a stadium or a train station). Your writing must include at least two different collective nouns and at least two different abstract nouns. Underline each collective noun and circle each abstract noun in your answer.

(10)

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Mark scheme · 8.6 Abstract and Collective Nouns: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

C — **B1**

Answer: **C**

Question 2

'audiences' corrected to 'audience's' (missing possessive apostrophe) — **B1**

'excitment' corrected to 'excitement' (spelling), cao — **B1**

Answer: **The audience's nervousness grew as the compere walked onto the stage, but their excitement soon turned to enjoyment.**

Question 3

(a) sentence contains a grammatically correct, clearly underlined collective noun (any valid example) — **B1**

(a) sentence contains a grammatically correct, clearly circled abstract noun (any valid example), cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **A swarm of bees buzzed around the garden, filling everyone with curiosity.**

(b) sentence contains a grammatically correct, clearly underlined collective noun (any valid example, different from part a) — **B1**

(b) sentence contains a grammatically correct, clearly circled abstract noun (any valid example, different from part a), cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **The choir's confidence grew with every rehearsal before the concert.**

Question 4

D — **B1**

Answer: **D**

Question 5

(a) pod, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **pod**

(b) murder, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **murder**

(c) parliament, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **parliament**

(d) exaltation, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **exaltation**

(e) skein, cao — **B1**

(e) Answer: **skein**

(f) pack, cao — **B1**

(f) Answer: **pack**

Question 6

(a) a shoal of fish, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **a shoal of fish**

(b) a troop of soldiers, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **a troop of soldiers**

(c) a herd of cattle, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **a herd of cattle**

Question 7

(a) happiness, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **happiness**

(b) curiosity, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **curiosity**

(c) freedom, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **freedom**

(d) bravery, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **bravery**

(e) honesty, cao — **B1**

(e) Answer: **honesty**

(f) strength, cao — **B1**

(f) Answer: **strength**

Question 8

identifies that the collective noun presents the visitors as a single, unified body sharing one reaction — **B1**

links this to effect, e.g. it suggests the moment was powerful enough to affect everyone at once, creating a stronger sense of shared atmosphere than listing individual reactions would (oe) — **B1**

Answer: **Using 'the group' presents all the visitors as a single, unified body sharing one reaction, suggesting the moment was powerful enough to move everyone at once; this creates a stronger sense of shared atmosphere than describing each visitor's response individually.**

Question 9

(a) A, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **A) is**

(b) B, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) are**

(c) A, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **A) is**

(d) B, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **B) are**

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Question 10

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple description of the busy place; little sense of organisation or atmosphere. **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant, engaged description of the place; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly, with an attempt to create atmosphere. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing description of the place; well organised, with a genuine sense of atmosphere and the writer's viewpoint. **5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (abstract and collective nouns) (AO6)

Level 1 Fewer than two collective nouns and/or fewer than two abstract nouns are present, or they are used incorrectly. **1**

Level 2 At least two collective nouns and at least two abstract nouns are present and mostly used accurately, with occasional errors. **2-3**

Level 3 At least two collective nouns and at least two abstract nouns are present, clearly marked and used accurately and effectively, alongside generally accurate spelling and punctuation. **4**

Indicative content:

- Paragraph uses a consistent first-person or third-person viewpoint and a consistent tense
- At least two different collective nouns are used accurately (e.g. crowd, queue, fleet, team, flock)
- At least two different abstract nouns are used accurately (e.g. excitement, chaos, relief, wonder)
- Underlining and circling clearly identify the required collective and abstract nouns
- Sense of atmosphere and the writer's own impression of the busy place, appropriate to a descriptive register
- Generally accurate spelling, punctuation and sentence control throughout

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